the adult pulls itself out. When the moth has escaped, bits of the end of the pupa case project outside the burrow, and the empty case may be forcibly extracted before it dries. If this *Cossus* larva pupated in the earth at the foot of the tree there would be a good reason why it should have carried the burrow to the surface. As it does not pupate outside the tree, and as it remains in the open air only long enough to shape and smooth the opening, may we not conclude that here is a worm which cares for its adult?

A REMARKABLE NEW PLATYGASTERID GENUS FROM AUSTRALIA.

BY ALAN P. DODD, NELSON, N. Q. AUSTRALIA

Platygastoides nov. gen.

Female (?).—Head transverse, as wide as the thorax; ocelli far apart, the lateral ones touching the eye margins. Antennæ 10-jointed; scape extraordinarily dilated, scarcely longer than wide, half as wide as the head; when in the normal position the rest of the antennæ lies back along the scape; pedicel slender, twice as long as wide; 1st funicle joint as long as the pedicel and narrower; 2nd as long as wide; 3rd and 4th wider than long; club 4-jointed; 1st joint very short, transverse; club joints 2-4 large, wide.

Thorax short, scarcely longer than wide; pronotum scarcely visible from above; mesonotum wide, with the parapsidal furrows present, wide apart; outside the parapsidal furrows are two parallel groove lines; scutellum semicircular, with a median groove line ; metanotum with two deep sulci, separated by a median carina; lateral edges of the sulci carinate.

Fore wings rather short, broad, without veins. Abdomen sessile, as wide as the thorax, and longer than the head and thorax united; 2nd segment equal to one-half the abdominal length.

Legs rather short; tarsi 5-jointed.

Type.—The following species:

Platygastoides mirabilis sp. nov.

Female (?).—Length, 1.50 mm. Black; legs, except coxæ, reddish yellow; antennæ reddish yellow, the scape and club suf-

fused with black. Head and thorax finely sculptured; abdomen very finely reticulately rugulose. Fore wings infuscated, opaque; marginal cilia very short; discal cilia very fine and dense.

(From 4 specimens, 2-3 inch objective, 1 inch optic, Bausch and Lomb.)

Male.—Unknown.

Described from two ♀ specimens caught while sweeping the forest slopes of Mount Pyramid, 1,500-2,500 feet, near Cairns; one ♀ caught while sweeping in a jungle, Goondi (Innisfail), N. Q.; and one ♀ received from the South Australian Museum, and labelled, "Cairns district, N. Q., A. M. Lea."

Habitat.—North Queensland (Mount Pyramid, near Cairns, Innisfail).

Type.—South Australian Museum, Adelaide, a ♀ tagmounted plus a slide bearing head, antennæ and forewings.

STRANGE ACTION OF *BOMBUS OCCIDENTALIS*.

BY J. WM. COCKLE, KASLO, B. C.

Whilst walking across my garden to-day I observed a number of bees disporting themselves on the flowers of some Chinese Cabbage that were running to seed.

On closer inspection I found that they were all *Bombus occidentalis* workers, with the exception of a very few *A. mellifica*. The *Bombus* were there in thousands, and their actions caused me to stop and watch them. Instead of settling and inserting their tongues amongst the pistils of the flower, they tumbled in every direction over the flower, and seemed to be looking for hidden treasure at the base of the corolla. Being unable to see what they were so assiduously hunting for, I sat down in the middle of the patch in order to get a closer observation.

They inserted their tongues in small holes at the base of the corolla and between the folds at the base of the petals. In many cases they seemed to have considerable difficulty in forcing an entrance, raising their bodies and thrusting the tongue down with force.